

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL PAUL JAMES SYKES

• Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing COL Paul James Sykes on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, USAFR. Since entering the Air Force in 1975 with the 315th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston, SC, Colonel Sykes has remained a dedicated reservist for his entire career.

After being commissioned through the USAFR Officers Training Program at the Citadel in 1974, Second Lieutenant Sykes began his military career flying the C-141A Starlifter. Over his 16 years of flying the C-141, Colonel Sykes held numerous squadron-level positions while supporting an array of humanitarian efforts and military operations worldwide.

In 1993, Major Sykes was selected to make the historic delivery of the first Globemaster III into Charleston AFB, SC, while accompanying the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Additionally, Major Sykes played an integral role as a member of the initial Crew Operations Review Team which was responsible for significant technological and operational upgrades to the C-17.

As a distinguished reservist, Major Sykes was selected as the Deputy Commander of the 315th Operations Group after previously being named Squadron Operations Officer for the 300 Airlift Squadron only months before. In 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Sykes was critical in ensuring that over 1,500 Reserve personnel were adequately prepared for their call to duty after the attacks of September 11th.

Two years later, Colonel Sykes deployed to Rhein Main AB, Germany, where he was responsible for the daily launching of over 35 flight missions to move the more than 3,000 military personnel who were to support Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom. After returning from overseas in 2004, Colonel Sykes was selected as the Commander of the 916th Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. As the Air Force Reserve Command's only wing in North Carolina, Colonel Sykes was charged to command over 950 reservists in support of the Air Force's global refueling mission.

During his tenure as Commander, the 916th Air Refueling Wing received numerous awards and scored in the top 3 percent of AFRC units in the Unit Compliance Inspection. Furthermore, the Wing was awarded the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its exceptional efforts and volunteer service.

A devoted patriot, Colonel Sykes formally retires on July 27, 2007, as a Command pilot with over 9,100 military flying hours. As a decorated leader, his commitment to our country will be forever marked by his extraordinary vision and endless sacrifice. Throughout his entire career and to this day, Colonel Sykes has served as a model airman. Along with his wife Patricia, who has stood next to Colonel Sykes with

unwavering loyalty and shared sacrifice but comforted by the humbling gift of serving one's country, I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in his retirement. I ask that the Senate join me in honoring him for his lifelong career of service.●

HONORING "CATONSVILLE GOES COASTAL"

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to honor the exemplary service of a group of my constituents from Catonsville, MD, who have recently returned from their week-long volunteer trip to Kiln, MS.

Led by high school seniors Justin Holmes and Sarah Dobson, "Catonsville Goes Coastal" coordinated six work teams to rebuild homes that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Working with the local Camp Coastal Outpost, the group's 59 students and 14 adults worked on eight works sites in Hancock County, where 80 percent of the structures were destroyed by the storm. Through student-organized fundraisers and donations from the local community, the volunteers raised over \$55,000 throughout the year to fund their trip and to buy \$12,000 worth of donations for Camp Coastal and for the families with whom they worked.

"Catonsville Goes Coastal's" efforts embody the global awareness, community spirit, and civic responsibility that we as Americans should all strive to achieve. I hope that my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing "Catonsville Goes Coastal" for their generosity and dedication to their fellow Americans.●

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF WALTER NEVADA

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, on April 17, Walter Nevada, the oldest living Shoshone-Bannock tribal elder and remaining original allottee on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation passed away. He was 101 years old. Walter was a distinguished member of one of the oldest tribes in Idaho. He was a religious man of wisdom respected by his people, a great teacher and leader.

The government of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes has existed for many generations. Traditional tribal government was based upon small bands of closely related families. Today the tribes are organized as a sovereign government, providing many services to tribal members and non-Indians with revenues from agriculture, business enterprises, tourism and many other operations.

Even though thousands of years have passed, the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes continue to leave an indelible mark on the ongoing history of North America and Idaho. One example is the recent successful endeavor of the Shoshone Bannocks to certify a tribal member as a Federal inspector of underground fuel storage tanks. This is the first time that this collaboration

between a tribe and the Environmental Protection Agency has occurred, and demonstrates the Shoshone Bannock Tribes' commitment to working with the U.S. Government on the critical issue of ground water protection. Also, working in coordination with State and Federal agencies, the Shoshone Bannocks have an active air quality monitoring program. The tribe continues to successfully preserve its history and way of life, while recognizing and promoting its critical role in stewardship of the environment. I have been pleased to work with them in the past, and look forward to doing so in the future.●

RECOGNIZING GARY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Gary, SD. The town of Gary will celebrate the 135th anniversary of its founding this year.

Since its beginning, Gary has been a strong reflection of South Dakota's values and traditions. As they celebrate this milestone anniversary, I am confident that Gary will continue to thrive and succeed for the next 135 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Gary on their anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

HONORING REV. DR. OTIS MOSS, JR.

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I wish to honor and congratulate my friend and long-time civil rights activist, the Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. The church which he currently pastors recently celebrated 75 years of service to the Cleveland community. In July 2007, Reverend Moss will celebrate 32 years of pastoral service to the Olivet congregation.

Reverend Moss pastors the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in the Fairfax neighborhood of my hometown of Cleveland, OH. Since 1931, Olivet has been more than a place of worship and Christian fellowship in the African-American community. It has been dedicated to preaching, teaching, and practicing the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. And as a centerpiece of the community, it has nurtured leaders who have championed civil rights and equality for the poor, and it has worked to increase awareness about poverty, health care, employment, education, and human rights.

A native of Georgia, Otis Moss, Jr., was born on February 26, 1935, to Otis and Magnolia Moss. He earned his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in 1956 and his master of divinity degree from the Morehouse School of Religion/Inter-denominational Theological Center in 1959. He also completed special studies at the Inter-denominational Theological Center from 1960 to 1961 and earned his doctorate in ministry from the United Theological Seminary in 1990.